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here; but it has left the masses of Europe more prostrate than ever under the heel of despotic power, and thus proved, if anything could, that liberty has in truth little to hope from the sword. A single century of unbroken peace would do far more for freedom, than would a thousand years of the most successful fighting; and its friends, whether they will or not, must in time learn to wait God's slow but sure method of working out the people's deliverance from oppression by such moral influences as can thrive only in the sunshine of peace.

SOME EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF AGENTS.

REV. A. C. HAND.

In addition to my regular reports from quarter to quarter, I subjoin a brief statement of the kind and quantity of labor bestowed, and the reception with which your agent has been greeted in different localities, together with some of the objections he has been called to answer.

1. As to the kind of labor bestowed, I would say, that very little has been attempted in public, except by regular peace sermons delivered generally at regular hours of public service in the churches. Sometimes, a union of different congregations has been effected in the afternoon or evening with good result. Sometimes cards and pencils have been circulated at the conclusion with good success; and sometimes we have depended altogether on private applications at the people's residences or places of business. Generally more or less can be raised by private applications even after a successful public collection. Very little can be accomplished in the West on week days, excepting by visiting, shop-lectures, fire-side preaching, and distributing peace publications.

2. The quantity of labor bestowed has been less than the extent and importance of the field might well have required; but not perhaps when the physical ability of the agent, and the state of the weather, roads, etc., are considered. Last year, and the first part of the present, it was nothing strange for me to preach three times to as many congregations on a Sabbath, and sometimes ride from three to eight miles between them. I have since last July restricted myself to two, excepting, I believe, in one instance. This may account, in part, for the fact that my collections are \$105.73 less than last year, notwithstanding the present year has been larger by one month.

3. The reception I have met, has been, from reformatory and progressive men, cordial: from conservative men, cool and cautious; and from confirmed, incurable conservatives, repulsive. In many instances I have been permitted, with a good degree of cordiality, to occupy the best hour of the day in the churches; in others a second best, and in others, some hour when there was no stated service, lest an irrelevant, secular or political theme should disturb the solemn services of the sanctuary!

I visited Madison when the people were in the highest state of excitement, Gov. Barstow having just threatened the use of all the power at his command to vindicate his claims; and when the Kansas excitement was also running high. After considerable consultation, it was concluded to get up a union meeting at the Baptist church in the evening. During the day the appointment was announced in the different churches, that in the evening the claims of the Peace cause would be presented, and the application of

Peace principles to the Kansas difficulties explained. The audience was large and attentive, and the impression favorable.

At Elgin, Ill., a growing town, a union meeting in the Congregational church was largely attended, and the response, as my financial report will show, encouraging. At Galesburgh, the location of Knox College, Ill., where a reformatory population has been collected, I addressed the second Presbyterian church in the morning, and the first, in the afternoon, and, with President Blanchard, Rev. Mr. Bascom, and other excellent men, whose influence has long been favorable in the community, as backers, a good impression was made, and \$30.75 collected. The Kansas question had to be met also, for honest-hearted men are inquiring for duty in the premises.

At Milwaukee, a year ago last winter, I addressed the first Methodist, and the first and second Presbyterian churches, but was allowed to make no public collections. A few individuals contributed. Recently I addressed the first Congregational church, the most wealthy of the denomination in the State; and the pastor, Rev. J. J. Miter and his flock have the matter under advisement, whether to patronise the American Peace Society, or not. Nothing has yet been done in Beloit, though the Congregational church has had the question under consideration for nearly two years, whether to allow the agent to occupy their desk. The Presbyterian church is willing that the subject should be presented for discussion. Janesville has given the subject a good hearing, but as yet a small amount of means.

The churches are open for the subject. Rockton, Ill., settled mostly by the descendants of the Puritans, gave me a hearing on the first cold Sabbath of last winter, and responded cordially, one aged man shivering through a sermon of full ordinary length, thus giving the most substantial evidence of descent from that race of hardy men of stern and rigid virtue, that worshipped God near Plymouth rock on a cold winter Sabbath. At Monroe, I addressed the Congregational church in the court house in the afternoon, and a union of all at the Methodist house in the evening. I had good audiences, and met with an encouraging response, though not large, and found some staunch friends of the cause. At Platteville, addressed the Congregational church in the morning, in the absence of the pastor, and received a good response. In the afternoon addressed a small audience at the Methodist house, where a protracted meeting was in progress. The pastor, a reformatory man, did not think the subject of Peace would hinder the work of God in the conversion of souls. Platteville contains many warm friends of the cause.

Finally, not to particularize further, I may say that in nearly all the places I have visited, more or less substantial friends have been found, and all with rare exceptions have been ready to wish well to the movement. More or less of practical sympathy may be expected through the West, wherever settled by intelligent eastern men, provided the claims of the enterprise shall be properly presented. It might be presented in so dogmatic, ultra and exclusive a manner, as to defeat the very object we so much desire to accomplish.

4. The most formidable objection I believe, with which I have had to contend, has been that the organized peace movement is not necessary, that the outlay for its support would better be appropriated to the support of Missionaries, and the circulation of Bibles, etc., to secure the object it has in view, viz. — the establishment of universal peace on earth.

Another is, 'that it is futile to expect peace among the nations, until the masses are truly converted to God, and their hearts renewed; then peace will follow as a necessary consequence without any special organization'

Another, 'that the cause of freedom has never gained any decided triumph over tyranny but by hard fighting; therefore, though a terrible remedy, it is in the order of Providence, and absolutely necessary.'

Some of the friends of the cause in the West, have urged the following with a good deal of force, and it has borne severely upon our finances, viz.: 'we of the West have all we can grapple with in building houses to shelter our families, school-houses, seminaries, colleges, churches, etc., and to support our ministers, teachers, etc.; to construct roads and railroads, so that we can get our produce to market, and to convert our lands into improved farms; while at the East all these improvements are made, and besides, a great amount of capital is left, seeking profitable investment, and much of it is comparatively dormant. Besides, we have to receive assistance from our eastern friends to build our churches, support our ministers, and build our colleges; and the mass of us western men come here with limited means to secure homes for our families. It is unreasonable, therefore, that you should ask us at present to sustain an object of so general a character as the Peace cause. Go to your rich eastern capitalists, and ask them for funds hoarded up for generations. As for us, we have, many of us, mortgaged our farms to surround ourselves with the improvements of eastern communities, that we may not rear our families in a state of heathenism.'

The inertia of "old fogysm" is not much of an obstacle in the West. There are such grand chances for a profitable investment of capital, that every man is tempted to go beyond his means, and *borrow money even* to invest in property that promises so speedy and immense a remuneration. If western men, therefore, have not the money in *hand* to pay for good objects, many of them have it in *prospect*.

At the present time, the Kansas troubles are operating most unfavorably upon our prospects. At Elgin, Ill., a banker had subscribed \$2 on the Sabbath. On Monday I called at his office. "I suppose," said he, "you want \$2 of me." "I want, I replied, all the money I can get, without trampling upon any man's rights." "Well, my name is on your card for \$2, is it not?" "It is," was the reply; "and I have only to regret that there is not a cypher at the right hand of it." "Perhaps," he replied "there would have been, if it had been to buy Sharp's rifles." When at Milwaukee, I called on Hon. —, one of the best men among the wealthy in our State. He had recently pledged \$500 for the Kansas movement. I told him if he would be as liberal to support the Peace cause, I would be well satisfied. He replied in substance by quoting the language of the Saviour in reply to Judas,—“The poor ye have with you always; but me ye have not always;” remarking that the Missionary, Bible, Peace, and other causes we have with us always; but the case of Kansas was an emergency that must be met without delay. That, furthermore, he was not well posted in regard to the Peace Society's operations, and was not prepared to make any donation till he could have time and means to inform himself; that if I would send him the last annual report, and such other documents as were necessary, he might become a life-member.

REV. WILLIAM W. CRANE.

I commenced my labors as Agent for the American Peace Society, Jan. 20, 1856, and have ever since devoted my whole time to the cause. I commenced in poor health, and, having overtaxed my strength, continue feeble.

I have delivered fifty-five lectures, in eight different counties, and twenty-three different towns. Four of these lectures were delivered in Allegan Co., three in Kalamazoo, five in Calhoun, eighteen in Jackson, ten in Eaton, seven in Ingham, one in Washtenau, and seven in Lenawee.

The cities, with the exception of Adrian, have not yet been visted. My labors have been thus far in the country and smaller villages. Ministers of every order have met me kindly, all have received a liberal supply of tracts, and of the larger pamphlets. They have expressed their sympathy, and

wished success to the cause. Many will present the doctrines of peace in their sermons.

It will require years of patient labor to remove the admiration of war from the public mind in Michigan. Our literature impedes our cause. Public libraries, private libraries, and the books of all our schools, containing lessons for reading, abound with the praise of heroes. Oratory, poetry, music, and painting, vie with each other in nurturing pride, and encouraging resentment and retaliation.

The bold, energetic, and adventurous spirit of the people of Michigan, will, I trust, in a better day coming, be mighty in this reform; but now, through prejudice, it is mighty in opposition. Michigan furnished a large share of soldiers for the Mexican war, and our legislative journals contain most extravagant eulogies on Mexican battles. The unnatural and unreasonable enmity to the English, which, in spite of forty years of peace, in spite of a thousand sacred ties, commercial, moral and religious, still rankles in the American breast, is nowhere stronger than in Michigan. This enmity raises the first objection to a World's Congress, or International Court of Arbitration. The English Government is regarded as an eternal enemy ever plotting our injury, and desiring our ruin.

There is another evil, more temporary, more powerful, in opposition to the cause of peace at present. I mean the Kansas excitement, in which Michigan is the Banner State. For some months she has been aroused by the press and the rostrum to the most violent feelings against the anti-free statemen in Kansas. Inflammatory arguments have demolished the natural sense of the sacredness of human life, and even men of intelligence, generosity and piety have been aroused to desire to seize their guns, and go to Kansas to kill men. With the utmost care to avoid all local and temporary issues, and to keep to the great question of a plan for the settlement of national misunderstandings by arbitration, we nevertheless cannot present the doctrines of Peace without coming more or less in collision with this spirit.

The pamphlets and tracts, of which I have distributed gratuitously some thousands, and the books sold, will work their way slowly to the heart of this people. The opposition of pastors and trustees to having collections taken in their churches, is a great hindrance to the introduction of this subject in our large villages and cities. We are left to beg, at private calls, of generous men of wealth, and these have just been taxed, often extravagantly, in aid of Kansas.

It is, however, so important to form an acquaintance with the clergy of our large towns, that I intend, at any sacrifice, soon to undertake it, if my health will permit me to continue my labors, and the Society deem me worthy of their confidence. Pioneers in this cause in Michigan must suffer many hardships and wants.

ADDRESSES.

BY THE PRESIDENT, BARON STOW, D. D.

The American Peace Society holds its present anniversary under circumstances of peculiar interest. We have no longer occasion to turn our attention and our solicitudes to the Eastern Hemisphere. Since we last met, the powerful nations which had been engaged in bloody strife, have discontinued hostilities, and formed and ratified a treaty, in some of whose details we especially rejoice, inasmuch as they show that progress has been made in